



CLASSROOM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Exhibition

Have your own class exhibition titled '200 Years of Merino Wool.' Encourage the students to create and design their own style of artwork incorporating merino sheep and wool. Students might like to paint a picture, create a sculpture or design a collage. Display the artworks around the room.

Then and now

- Discuss, as a class, the way wool was first exported in 1807. Talk about the labour and transport involved in exporting the wool to London. Have the students make a poster using maps, illustrations, simple labels and explanations of the process.
- Discuss how wool is now exported overseas. Repeat the above activity and compare the different processes.

The Big Merino in Goulburn

Ask the students to use the Internet to find out about The Big Merino in Goulburn, New South Wales. Have students include a description of the effect that the construction of a town bypass has had on the city of Goulburn and what has recently happened to The Big Merino.

Wool classing

Have the students find out the three characteristics for handling and classing wool. The Internet links specified above will help.

Timeline

Encourage the students to use books and the Internet to create a timeline of the history of merino wool in Australia. Ask them to select 10–15 significant events to include in their timelines.

Narrative

Talk with the class about merino sheep and what a typical day would be like for a merino. Discuss eating, grazing and shearing. Have students pretend that they are merino sheep. Ask them to write a story about 'A day in the life of a merino sheep.' Encourage them to illustrate their stories.

Woolly maths

- What is 21 micron merino wool? Over a season of sales, obtain and track the auction prices for this wool and interpret the data on a bar graph.
- Investigate sheep numbers in Australia over the last 15 years and interpret on a bar graph. Make note of any trends that might appear, especially during drought years. What can students ascertain from this data?

Visual Arts

- Create a mural of the production of wool from the paddock to the garment
- Weave a small woolen mat using cardboard for the loom. Learn the terms *warp* and *weft*